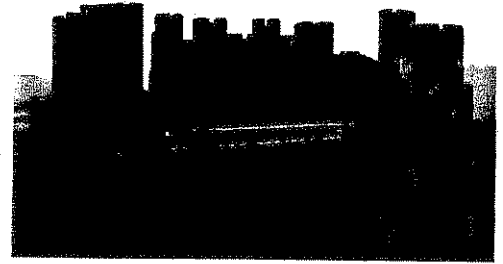




Meeting Agenda
March 8, 2010
6:30-8:30PM



1. Sign-In and Turn-In Forms/Assignments
2. Question/Answer Session with Mike Johnson
3. Behavior/Hotel Scenario Skits
4. Home Stay
5. Service Project
6. Delegate Meeting/Parent Meeting
7. Tasks and Assignments for next meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, April 12th 6:30-8:30

SCHAUMBURG MALL 5/16/2010 NOON

BON VOYAGE PARTY 6/23/2010 6:30PM

2010 BJ Homestay Coversheet – Program Support

Brief intro to the English homestay:

The homestay visit is arranged with an English family.

Basics:

- 3 night homestay
- Leaders will predominantly be in homestays during this period. Occasionally if a Homestay is not available, leaders will stay in a local guesthouse or hotel.
- Families speak English
- There is a local coordinator who is available at all times to assist with any emergencies or challenges that may arise during the homestay
- Average number of People to People students in a homestay ranges from 1 – 3. **(Note: If a school Homestay is allocated, these will predominantly be allocated as 1 student per family)**
- Delegates will have their own bed but not necessarily their own room. If sharing a room it will always be with another student of the same age group and sex.
- Families may smoke, but it is fairly easy to get a homestay for someone with smoke allergies or asthma. **(Note for PS Only: If smoke allergy or asthma is noted on the health form, this is done automatically.)**

Activities with host families include

- Meals and activities will be provided by individual homestay families
- Delegates should be prepared for an occasional expense for extracurricular activities with their host family.
- Some activities may be provided with the homestay family and a school combined or with the delegation. Leaders will be required to participate in all group activities.

Suggested gifts for homestay families. It is only suggested to bring ONE of the following :

- Picture of yourself, perhaps one with your family, home, school, sporting event, etc, or a small photo album of all of them
- Handwritten thank you note
- Post card from your hometown
- Something your state or city is famous for
- Something that represents you



BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS

Reinforcing Ambassadorial Behavior Summary

Please read the following summary carefully. Signing your Success Contract indicates that you understand and accept the rules and consequences developed by the delegation.

Dress Rules

1. No shorts at official briefings or on any airline flights
2. No ripped clothing
3. No clothing that allows underwear to show
4. No shirts with rude expressions or logos
5. No shirts that promote illegal or inappropriate behavior
6. No excessively short shorts or skirts
7. No bare midriffs
8. No hats inside buildings

Possible Consequences

- Verbal warning
- Early curfew
- Clothing confiscated
- Leader to check other clothing
- Loss of a privilege
- Loss of garment for the remainder of the program
- Report 10 minutes early every day for clothing inspection
- Call or write letter to parents
- Loss of free time for a day

Punctuality Rules

1. Be on time! If you miss a connection it inconveniences the entire delegation and you will be responsible for any additional costs that are incurred.
2. Better yet, be 10 minutes early.

Possible Consequences

- Verbal warning
- Journal entry explaining importance
- Eat/sit with leader
- Call/letter home explaining
- Be 15 to 30 minutes early for events
- Loss of free time
- Sit with leaders for the rest of the program
- Personal early wake-up call

Restaurant Rules

1. Vary your dining companions.
2. Starvation is not an excuse for eating before everyone at your table is served.
3. Every dining room is "The Ritz" and requires your best table manners.
4. The speaking volume in a public dining area must reflect respect and concern for all patrons.
5. Playing with and wasting food are both unacceptable behaviors. Removing or playing with the sugar, salt, utensils, etc. are examples of non-Ambassadorial behaviors.

Possible Consequences

- Verbal warning
- Sit with leaders at meals
- Be served last
- Require a journal entry of observations
- Letter of apology to group
- Assigned table companions
- Send journal entry home with a letter explaining behavior
- Eat dinner in room
- Call home

Personal Expectation Rules

1. Students are prohibited from engaging in sexual activities. This includes public displays of affection and pairing up as a couple.
2. No body changes
 - a. No ear piercing
 - b. No hair coloring or cutting
 - c. No tattooing
 - d. No body piercing

Possible Consequences

- Not permitted to sit with specific person for a day
- Delegate removes earring
- Delegate returns self to original condition
- Write journal entry to share
- Call home
- Return home early

Common Sense

1. Use your common sense. Shoplifting results in a direct flight home.
2. Cleanliness: motor coach, hotel room, restaurant, and self
3. You are not permitted to operate ANY kind of motorized vehicle.
4. No bungee jumping, sky diving, hang-gliding, or parasailing.
5. No guns—toys or otherwise. This includes pellet, water, and paint guns.
6. People to People does not allow the purchase of swords, knives, or lighters.

Possible Consequences

- Offer to pay for damage
- Confiscate object
- Call home
- Sent home

Curfew Rules

1. Grade School and Middle School:
10:00 p.m. Student Ambassadors will be in their assigned rooms. 10:30 p.m. lights out
2. High School: 11:00 p.m. Student Ambassadors will be in their assigned rooms. 11:30 p.m. lights out
3. Exceptions will be made for late evening programs or early morning departures.

4. Room check will take place every night.

Note: Your leaders can modify the curfew time as they deem necessary.

Possible Consequences

- Verbal warning
- Loss of free time
- Assigned room next to leaders the following night
- Earlier lights out
- Free time spent with leader
- Letter of apology and explanation
- Call home

Motor Coach Rules

1. Treat your coach drivers with respect and keep the coach clean. It is the responsibility of the driver to transport you safely from place to place. It is not the driver's responsibility to clean up your garbage or collect your belongings. This includes used chewing gum.
2. Student Ambassadors assist the coach driver with the loading and unloading of luggage.
3. Sitting in a seat is essential for safety. We encourage you to vary your seat mate, but only while the coach is stopped.
4. Taking flash pictures on the coach is a safety hazard day or night.

Possible Consequences

- Verbal reminder—police own area
- Apologize to driver, leaders, delegates
- Loss of headphones or other for a day
- Clean the coach alone
- Sit with leader
- Assigned seat
- Loss of headphones or other for remainder of program
- Call home

Drugs and Alcohol Rules

1. No drugs or alcohol are allowed during the program.

Possible Consequences

- You will be sent home at your parents' expense and you will not receive high school credit.



CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS

Below are some guidelines to follow when communicating with others in a foreign country. See the worldcitizens.org website for more tips.

- Whenever possible, try to speak the local language. At a minimum, learn to say *hello*, *goodbye*, *please*, *thank you*, and *you're welcome*.
- It's important to learn the local word for bathroom. If you ask for it in English, you may be led to a room with a bathtub, wash basin, or shower, but not a toilet.
- Be specific and keep your language simple. Avoid slang words and contractions.
- Speak slowly, but not loudly! As people slow their language they tend to raise their volume.
- Remember that humor does not always translate into other cultures. Avoid telling jokes, especially ethnic ones.
- Remember that you are the one with the accent. Try to accommodate those to whom you are speaking by adapting to whatever they need. Use whatever means necessary to communicate: dictionaries, phrase books, gestures, body language, drawing pictures, etc. If others do not understand you, do not give up. Try, try again!
- If you are asked uncomfortable questions about the United States (political, human rights, current events, etc.), follow these simple rules:
 - Listen carefully to make sure you understand the question. Analyze the content of the question. Pause and think.
 - Sort out any over-generalizations and establish a thoughtful response. Respond only to relevant issues.
 - It is all right to disagree, to admit that you do not understand an issue, or to decline to discuss something that you find uncomfortable.
 - Do not feel as though you have to defend every decision made by the government or private industry in the United States.



DESCRIPTIVE JOURNAL WRITING

STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS

Descriptive writing requires using all of your senses to paint a vivid picture in the reader's mind of what you are experiencing by describing what you are seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching. Before you complete your next journal writing assignment using descriptive writing, practice your powers of observation. Look out the window. What do you see? When you are out and about, what do you hear? When you are eating, what do you taste? When you come home from school and dinner is cooking, what do you smell? What do your muscles feel like after you've worked out? What is the texture of your favorite jacket?

The following are examples of descriptive writing. Which example "paints a picture" more vividly?

Example 1

The market was colorful.

The vibrantly red tomatoes in the market contrasted with shiny oranges like competing suns in the sky.

Example 2

The crash was loud.

The crash rumbled for miles in waves of sound echoing in my ears.

Example 3

The soup was hot.

The soup burned my tongue like a torch.

Example 4

The chicken was delicious.

The hints of rosemary flavoring the savory chicken enticed my taste buds.

Example 5

It smelled like the sea.

I inhaled the damp smell of salt water and seaweed that was carried to my nostrils in the breeze.

As your journal writing assignment, reflect on yesterday, from the moment you woke up until the time you went to bed. Write about all that happened and how you experienced and felt about the happenings, etc. Try to describe the day using all five senses: hearing, tasting, smelling, feeling, and seeing. Write your reflection in the pre-travel section of your Travel Journal.



PHONE COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS

It is not reasonable or convenient for students to call home every night, from every city, at specific times, nor upon arrival. The availability of telephones is unpredictable and we recommend calling home as seldom as possible, as frequent phone calls home tend to increase feelings of homesickness.

If there is any kind of emergency, you will be contacted by the delegation leaders or the program office. The program office has the call center staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week while students are traveling. Remember, if you don't hear from them, they are fine. "No news is good news!" Following are some general guidelines for speaking by phone to your traveling Ambassadors.

Do

- Keep a positive tone. State how proud you are of him or her being a Student Ambassador.
- Ask about what your child has seen and done so far.
- Suggest your child talk to a roommate or new friend about feelings of homesickness. Knowing that they aren't alone in feeling homesick can ease the sense of loneliness for homesick children.
- Try faxing to the hotel instead of calling by phone should you need to communicate.
- Save bad news that can wait until your child returns home. If the news is important, speak with a delegation leader first, so someone can be with your child to provide support.
- Remind your child to call from pay-phones using a pre-paid phone card, NOT from hotel-room phones.
- Realize that exhaustion and homesickness can make your child very emotional. Even when having a wonderful experience, the sound of your voice, especially if from an answering machine, may make your child a little teary. Please don't overreact.

Don't

- Let your child hear you cry on the phone. This only makes homesickness worse.
- Encourage your child to call home more. There is a direct correlation between the frequency of phone calls home and homesickness. Calling home makes homesickness worse!
- Expect your child to call home for at least 2-3 days after departing. The program is action-packed and with jet lag, delegates are pretty tired during the first few days.



Recommended Packing List (generic)...

Clothing:

- 2 pairs of khaki pants
- 1 pair dress pants (or a skirt for women)
- 1 pair jeans
- 1-3 pairs of walking shorts (or capris for girls)
- 1 People to People polo shirt-supplied by P2P (an extra is suggested)
- Men: 1 tie, 1 belt, 1 dress shirt, and 4-6 nice casual shirts
- Women: 1 dressier top, 4-6 nice casual tops
- 1-2 long-sleeved casual shirts
- 1 sweater, fleece, or sweatshirt (if necessary)
- 7-9 changes of underwear and socks (or more)
- 1 pair comfortable dress shoes (no high heels)
- 1 pair comfortable walking shoes
- Waterproof medium-weight jacket
- Sleepwear
- Swimsuit, small towel, and flip-flops (for pool use only)

Other necessary items:

- Explore Guide and Get Wise Guide (provided by P2P)
- Trip journal
- Battery-powered travel alarm clock (pack in suitcase not carry-on)
- Camera, extra batteries, and lots of film (ASA 100-400 recommended)
- Laundry detergent (packets)
- 3-week supply of any personal medication
- Prescription(s) for above (just in case!)
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Mini sewing kit / safety pins
- Mini flashlight
- Small notepad and pen
- Insect repellent
- Reliable, tough, water resistant watch
- About a dozen - quart size resealable (Ziploc) bags
- Large plastic bag (for dirty clothes)

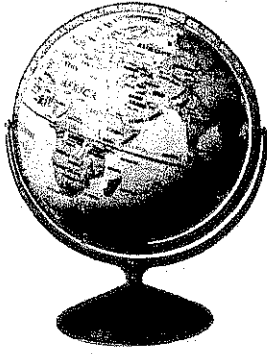
Toiletries... (small sizes to throw away as you go)

- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Cosmetics
- Sanitary supplies
- Kleenex
- Braces ? Necessary supplies

Basic first aid kit:

- Band-aids, Bactine or Neosporin (any antiseptic), aspirin/ibuprofen, cold/flu medicine tablets, and cortisone cream (for bug bites), and motion sickness bands or tablets, Imodium, lozenges and cough drops

credit/debit card * with a PIN!



Tasks and Assignments

Due April 12th

1. Student Ambassador Certification:

(Staying Healthy, Money Matters, Making the Most of Your Journey) Complete chapters 9, 10, and 11 online.

2. Complete online *Explore Before You Go* Chapter: Food and Customs

3. Project Fair: Prepare and bring all materials/props.

4. Begin to practice walking: Start with at least 30 minutes a day.

Things to bring to the next meeting:

1. Passport
2. Completed Emergency Sheet
3. Canned food donations for the food pantry

